Armored Car Would Have Saved Kennedy's Life, Hoover Believes

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover believes President John F. Kennedy would be alive today if he had been riding in a specially armored car with bullet-proof glass in Dallas.

This was disclosed today in Hoover's testimony before the Warren Commission in which he listed his recommendations to President Johnson and the Secret Service for future security of the President.

These are Hoover's recommendations:

"First, regarding travel, advise the Secret Service as far in advance as possible of the President's travel plans and proposed itinerary. There have been Presidents who suddenly decide they are going somewhere and the Secret Service does not have the chance always to cover the area and check the neighborhood, hotel or place where it may be.

"Second, avoid publicizing exact routes of travel as long as possible. In Dallas, the route was publicized at least 24 hours before so everybody knew where he would be driving.

"Third, use a specially armored car with bullet proof glass and have such cars readily available in locations frequently visited. The President (Kennedy) had no armored car. He (Johnson) has one now which I supplied to Secret Service and they will have one made no doubt in due time for the President's use. But if it had been armored, I believe President Kennedy would be alive today.

"Fourth, avoid setting a specific pattern of travel or other activity such as visiting the same church at the same time each Sunday.

"Regarding appearances, first use maximum feasible screening of persons in attendance, including use of detection devices sensitive to the amount of metal required in a firearm or grenade

"Second, use a bullet proof shield in front of the entire rostrum in public appearances such as the swearing-in ceremony at the Capitol on Inauguration Day, the presidential reviewing stand in front of the White House the same day and on the rear of trains.

"Third, keep to a minimum, the President's movements within crowds, remain on the rostrum after the public addresses rather than mingling with the audience.

"Fourth, in appearances at public sporting events such as football games, remain in one place rather than changing sides during half-time ceremonies.

"He must never ride in an open car; that has been my recommendation.

"Fifth, limit public appearances by use of television whenever possible.

"Sixth, avoid walking in public except when absolutely necessary."

Hoover also recommended that it be made a federal crime to assault the President or Vice President; that the Secret Service receive authority to request assistance and cooperation from other federal agencies in connection with foreign travel; that control of the sale of firearms be improved, and that there be a ban on picketing in the vicinity of the White House.

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